

NOAA Education Council Meeting

Date/Time: December 15, 2010 (1:00–4:00 pm)
 Location: SSMC3, Room 14836
 Dial-in: 866.901.0711
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 Contact: Luis Leandro - work: (202) 482-3139

Proposed future agenda items:

AGENDA

- 1:00 Welcome/Opening Remarks
- 1:10 Teacher research experience conference results – Jennifer Hammond (*informational*)
 (10 min presentation/10 min discussion)
- 1:30 Quest to Nest game launch and formal evaluation – Peg Steffen and Molly Harrison (*informational*)
 (15 min presentation/15 min discussion)
- 2:00 Break
- 2:10 MERITO presentation on evaluation report – Kate Thompson and the MERITO group (*informational*)
 (15 min presentation/15 min discussion)
- 2:40 CSC membership discussion and vote (*decisional*)
 (15 min presentation/15 min discussion)
- 3:10 Updates & Announcements
- 3:40 Holiday Cheer!

Upcoming Council Meetings:

January 12, 2011
 February 9, 2011
 March 16, 2011

Attendance

In person: Louisa Koch (LK), Marlene Kaplan (MK), Elizabeth Bullock (EB), Ron Gird (RG), Molly Harrison (MH), Chelsea Lowes (CL), Michiko Martin (MM), Paulo Maurin (PM), John McLaughlin (JM), Liz McMahon (LM), Bronwen Rice (BR), Peg Steffen (PS), Steve Storck (SST), Kate Thompson (KT), Audrey Trotman (AT).

On the phone: Stephanie Bennett (SB), Julie Bursek (JB), Amy Clark (AC), LuAnn Dahlman (LD), Than Vo Dinh (TVD), Dawn Hayes (DH), Rocio Lozano (RL), Sonya Padron (SP), Shannon Sprague (SS).

Announcements (LK)

- SAB Presentation update: Ed got almost half a day. I talked about the NAS review and the Education strategic plan. AT led a discussion on EPP with a focus on the cooperative centers. There were three offers to partner with the cooperative centers.
- SEE Process: Thanks to Council members who helped Christos and Luis put together the Engagement Iplan. We had a very productive meeting last week and are on track to finalize this before the Christmas holiday.
- AGM update: The final AGM is out. We are the only enterprise not called out, but we fought as hard as we could to be included on behalf of the Council. We are unclear how to exactly interpret this, but it is a sign from leadership that engagement does not make it to their priority list.
- I spoke with Francis Eberle from NSTA. The NRC says the Framework will be ready in spring 2011. NSTA wants it done before their national meeting. The Elementary & Secondary Education Act is up for renewal. It's important for science to be in there. NSTA is well positioned to underpin the standards when they come out. We want to be involved in this process.
 - PS: Some of us have already been involved by giving feedback to NSTA along the way. I was involved. No one else here was involved.
 - LK: Who was involved in the standards process?
 - KT: I'm interested in being involved.
 - CL: Sea Grant provided feedback.
 - MK: NOAA submitted NMEA and our feedback.

Teacher research experience conference results – Jennifer Hammond (informational)

Brief summary of formalized feedback from the conference. See PDF slides.

- JH: We had pre- and post-conference surveys and got 80% return. An overview of the results is in the PDF slides.
- MK: Did you get specific feedback on speakers?
 - JH: Yes, this is an overview, but we have specific and detailed information. Some people felt there were a couple speakers who didn't really focus on the expected topic.
- JH: NOAA has a BPA in place to hire event planning contractors. NSF has stepped up by going forward with creating the report. The final report will contain all the documents, videos, and other materials. DOE and others are interested in a follow-up conference.

Quest to Nest game launch and formal evaluation – Peg Steffen and Molly Harrison (informational)

Introduction to the Quest to Nest game and information about the NOAA Games and Simulations Summit. See PowerPoint slides.

- LK: How many games are on games.noaa.gov?
 - PS: There are about 30 games on the portal website right now. Many are NOAA games, but we also have a lot from partners.
- CL: How long is the game from start to finish, and what is the finish?
 - PS: There is a certificate at the end. The game takes 30-40 min. The finish is managing to keep the turtles and stakeholders happy, gauged by a minimum score.
- LM: For the summit, is the incentive for the other agencies' participation a chance for them to show off?
 - PS: Yes, we are picking their brains. They are paying their own way.
- LK: Can people call in?
 - PS: We're on a shoestring budget. We'd like to webcast it, but we don't have funds right now. At the very least, we might be able to audiocast it.
 - KT: You might be able to do GoToWebinar, but it depends on how many people will tune in.
- RG: What are the target ages for the games?
 - PS: Most are targeted to middle school, but there are some for all K-12 ages.
 - RG: NWS would like to talk to you about a game called Hot Seat for high schoolers. It was very popular at WeatherFest. We have games that could be posted and will send these to you.
- JM: Could this summit produce a best practices document? This would be helpful for the Connects Working Group.
 - PS: SOS, SecondLife platforms, and visualizations will be included, not just specifically games and simulations.
- SS: If you can't webcast, you could videotape it. Let me know if you do this.
 - KT: If you do a webinar, you can record it and then post it.
- PS: We have a Chesapeake Bay game for adults to take stakeholder roles. This is a complex game intended for coastal training.
- PM: Will we be able to do a simulation at the summit?
 - PS: Yes.

MERITO presentation on evaluation report – Kate Thompson and MERITO group (informational)

Overview of MERITO program, its accomplishments, and a request for advice on where to find funding. See PowerPoint slides.

- KT: On the phone we have two sanctuaries: from Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Dawn Hayes and Sonya Padron; from Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Julie Bursek and Rocio Lozano.
- KT: MERITO is on the cusp of going away.
- PS: Do you have any options for proposals to NSF?
 - DH: We've done three rounds, each time addressing what they've requested, but been rejected.
 - SP: Some of the problem is that it is a federal program seeking funding from another agency.
 - JB: The programming component has always been soft funded, but we keep facing obstacles for staff time to apply for support
- JH: Have you ever had partners apply for funding?
 - KT: That is who is applying.
- MK: What about Foundation money?
 - KT: For many years, this has been one of the top fundraising topics for the Sanctuaries. Our federal funding is getting slashed, so we can't afford to keep the staff. The programming has some funds through grants, but not the staff. If you have suggestions on sources for funding, please let me know.
 - DH: The Aquarius mission was an example of how we can leverage site-based programs to connect to national projects and reach diverse communities. That was one of the positive impacts of the mission. MERITO academy students and Boys and Girls Clubs participated in the broadcasts.
- JH: How long is the staff funded through?
 - KT: Until March. The staff are not federal employees.
- PS: Is there any way to tie it closer to climate and seek climate funds?
 - KT: There are many ties, including a climate curriculum on ocean acidification.
 - PS: Do you have any ties to JPL in Pasadena? Did you put in for their climate money?
 - Dawn: Yes, we work with Annie Richardson. I need to talk with them about their grants.
- Please give any additional ideas to KT.

CSC membership discussion and vote (decisional)

Discussion and final decisional vote on the CSC bid for membership.

- **DECISIONAL VOTE: Passed!**

Updates and Announcements

- RG: AMS annual meeting is coming up in January. WeatherFest will have a teacher workshop in the morning. The local Seattle teacher from Teacher at Sea will be there.
 - LK: Who will your VIP be for the opening? Will Dr. Lubchenco be there?
 - RG: I have heard she will be at WeatherFest, but I don't know if she'll be there for the opening. We were thinking of Laura Furgione. We have two chapters for the Owlle program on hurricanes and lightening. We're working on floods right now. The Whitaker Center's SOS program has Expedition Chesapeake, which takes the position of several stakeholders. The film will be in IMAX.
 - SSt: What is the target release date?
 - RG: Sometime late 2011 or early 2012.
- AT: Our Cooperative Center directors meeting will be in March. We'll have an expo of students and faculty March 24 in the Silver Spring Science Center.
- MK: RG, MH, Virginia Tippy and I have been working on Coastal America's Student Ocean Summit, which is coming up on Feb. 14. There are 20 teams coming in, each of four students and a couple educators. They have a variety of activities and a wiki site we can populate. They are looking for contact people as groups develop their action plans. I'm organizing a session with just the educators. Some of you may want to participate. The National Ocean Council met in November. This starts the clock ticking on developing the strategic action plan. I'm working on the education piece and will bring this to the council maybe in February.
- KT: We've been working hard to formalize our national volunteer program. We're creating a national volunteer policy document, which must clear GC. We've looked across NOAA and DOC, and there's not much out there for guidance documents. I want to bring this to the Council.
 - RG: Have you looked at the Coop Observing Program?
 - KT: We sit on an interagency board, and sometimes it comes up like we are representing NOAA. I think this is something the Council should discuss. I'd like to present this in February.
 - LK: Is there someone from the Coop Program to contact?
 - RG: Joel Cline.
 - JH: Could you have a side meeting in January for those who are interested first to get more of a perspective?
 - PS: Some of us have already done some of these steps with the GC.
 - KT: Do you want to do a working meeting to share what people have done within their offices?
 - JH: Yes. Then we can present at the following Council meeting.
 - KT: I will look at the end of January for a meeting.
- BM: We have over 100 educators interested in providing input into the Climate Stewards program. Many more are coming in. We are having our first panel to review stewardship action.
- PS: There is a lot of interest. I think it shows Climate Stewards is meeting a need. If you have an announcement you want to go to NSTA Express, let me know. They need at least a week lead time. I have fliers for the Games Summit. You can register online for free by Jan. 7. We have some Climate Change Wildlife and Wildlands toolkit. If you have an upcoming event for which you want materials, let me know. We're also working on a toolkit to help teachers with controversial issues, especially climate.
 - RG: I will take 1000 for WeatherFest.
- JH: We have closed our applications for Teacher at Sea. Applications and the review process are all online. We had about 200 full applications. We are waiting for our budget to decide how many teachers we can support.
- JM: The GLOBE Program director is stepping down. There will be an open, competitive job search. If you have any ideas for people, please share this. We will send this out to the Council. The SOS Workshop will be May 3-5 in Chicago. Our ELG deadline for applications is in early January. GC just decided that they no longer will require publishing funding opportunities in the FRN. We had a Grants Team retreat.
 - JH: Is the GLOBE position in DC?
 - JM: It is in Boulder, CO through UCAR.
- SSt: We had our first education.noaa.gov advisory council meeting. If you have issues or thoughts, you can work through them or come directly to me. Please make sure that you go to your networks to ask for resources. We've just finished our El Niño collection revision, which now has an El Niño meter. Ocean Floor is now collecting through Friday. Estuaries will collect soon. The Web Operations Center is reconfiguring the web form. This will cause delays in your updates to NOAA webpages. I also went to National Association for Interpretation conference. We are now representing on a Federal Interagency Coordinating Committee for Interpretation. We've been contacted by other agencies to develop a national education program for severe storms.
- LK: Please keep Stacey Rudolph in your thoughts. She went into the hospital to get induced at midnight last night. We're waiting to hear when she has her baby.